



- ☐ The present application is a U.S. national patent application filed after June 30, 2003, or an international application that entered the national stage under 35 USC § 371 after June 30, 2003. Therefore, copies of the cited U.S. patents and/or U.S. patent application publications are not enclosed.

1. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

- a. ☐ within 3 months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d);  
☐ within 3 months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an International application;  
☒ before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits; or  
☐ before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under § 1.114.
- b. ☐ after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance, and thus: ☐ the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, or ☐ a fee of \$180.00 (submitted with electronic IDS).
- c. ☐ after the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus: the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided and a fee of \$180.00 is enclosed.

2. It is hereby certified:

- ☒ that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than thirty (30) days prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement;
- ☒ that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of the Statement; or
- ☐ that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in § 1.56 (c) more than three (3) months prior to the filing of the Statement.

3. ☐ Consideration of the following additional information (including any co-pending or abandoned U.S. applications, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested:

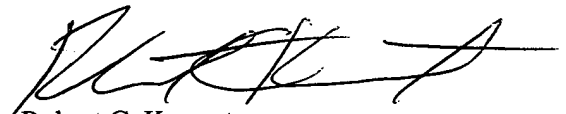
4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached Form PTO-1449:

- ☐ reference is made to an English language translation submitted herewith, and/or

- ☐ reference is made to a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith, and/or
  - ☐ reference is made to an English language translation of a foreign patent office search report submitted herewith, and/or
  - ☐ reference is made to the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page(s) \_\_\_\_\_, and/or
  - ☐ reference is made to the concise explanation set forth below:
5. ☐ Applicant also offers the following comments for the Examiner's consideration:
6. ☒ Also enclosed is a copy of a foreign search report citing these references.
7. ☐ The listed documents were brought to the attention of the Applicant(s) after payment of the issue fee in the captioned case. The documents were cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. Applicant(s) request this Information Disclosure Statement and attached Form PTO-1449 be placed in the file of the captioned application.
8. ☐ Applicant(s) requests that the Information Disclosure Statement and attached Form PTO-1449 and references, which are being filed before the grant of the patent and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(i), be placed in the file of the captioned application.

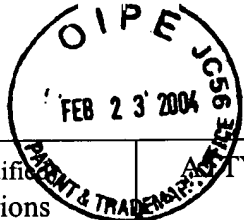
If any required fees are missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzl, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5863-00101/RCK.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Robert C. Kowert  
Reg. No. 39,255  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

MEYERTONS, HOOD, KIVLIN,  
KOWERT & GOETZEL, P.C.  
P. O. Box 398  
Austin, Texas 78767  
(512) 853-8800

Date: February 18, 2004

**Form PTO-1449** (modified)  
List of Patents and Publications  
For Applicant's Information  
Disclosure Statement  
(Use several sheets if necessary)PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE  
PATENT NO. 5863-00101

APPLICANT: DeMartini

FILING DATE: October 3, 2003

SERIAL NO. 10/678,868

GROUP: 3753

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAM. INITIALS	REF. DES.	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	A1	4,413,592	11/8/83	Jones			
	A2	5,199,457	4/6/93	Miller			
	A3	5,392,911	2/28/95	Gillispie, et al.			
	A4	6,202,689	3/20/01	Williams			
		6,601,593	8/03	Deiss, et al.			
		6,318,403	11/01	Fritz, Sammy G.			
		5,645,103	7/97	Whittaker, David S.			
		4,783,971	11/98	Alba, Donald			
		3,519,233	7/70	NA			
		4,689,511	8/87	Baker, et al.			

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAM. INITIALS	REF. DES.	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO
	A5	2 272 553	5/18/94	GB			
	A6	100 62 361	6/20/02	DE			
		24 50 075	5/76	Germany			
		36 44 053	6/88	Germany			

**OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)**

	A7	International Search Report for PCT/US 03/31588, mailed January 28, 2004, 8 pages.

EXAMINER:

DATE CONSIDERED:

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the patent owner.

Information Disclosure Statement--PTO 1449 (modified)